GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:130
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
DECLINE IN STANDARD OF EDUCATION
PUNNULAL MOHALE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for decline in the standard of education in various states and the efforts being made to improve it;

(b) whether the students of rural areas have to face lot of difficulties when they go to cities due to the fact that English language is not taught at the primary level;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce English language right from the First standard;

(d) whether the Government would ensure uniform pattern of education in the country so as to avoid the complex among the students of English or Hindi medium schools; and

(e) if so, the details in this connection?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.130 FOR 31.07.2001 REGARDIN DECLINE IN STANDARD OF EDUCATION ASKED BY SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE.

It is not true that there has been decline in the standard of education in various States. On the contrary, the provisional results of the Census 2001 have confirmed the facts that there has been progress on almost every parameter with regard to education. Though the Government still have much to accomplish, the overall results give reason for cautious optimism. The provisions of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and the Programme of Action (POA), 1992 and the national system of education as detailed below, have yielded fairly satisfactory results.

The NPE, 1986 provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curricular framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels.

The NPE and its Programme of Action provide for a definite edge for education in rural areas. Pursuant to this, a number of schemes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas. Concerns regarding quality and equity in education are also continuously addressed by Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions.

The National Policy on Education envisages the use of regional languages as media of education at the primary and secondary stages. There is no proposal to make any change in this policy. At the secondary stage, State Governments should adopt and vigorously implement the three-language formula which includes the study of a modern Indian language, preferably one of the southern languages, apart from Hindi and English in the Hindi-speaking States, and of Hindi along with the regional language and English in the Non-Hindi-speaking States.